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Appl. No. 10/777,079
Amdt. dated June 23, 2008
Reply to O.A. of May 15, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device, comprising:
a container for holding a liquid, the container having an opening;
a porous wick extending through the opening such that a portion of the wick contacts the liquid held within the container and a portion of the wick is exposed to the ambient environment, where the wick transfers the liquid from the container; and
a capillary member having a surface in communication with a portion of the wick, the capillary member having a nonporous capillary channel that extends radially from the wick.
2. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device according to claim 1, wherein the capillary member is a capillary plate having one or more capillary channels, and
wherein a portion of the capillary channels is in communication with a portion of the wick such that the capillary channels, transfer liquid from the wick for dispersion to the ambient environment.
3. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device according to claim 2, wherein the capillary plate is substantially wing shaped.
4. (Currently Amended) An evaporative device, comprising:
a container for holding a liquid, the container having an opening;
a porous wick extending through the opening such that a portion of the wick contacts the liquid held within the container and a portion of the wick extends outside of the container such that the wick transfers the liquid from the container; and

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a plurality of capillary [[plate]] plates, each having one or more capillary channels and having a surface in communication with a portion of the wick, wherein the surface has nonporous capillary channels that extend radially from the wick along the surface of the capillary plate, and wherein the capillary channels are substantially continuous along lengths thereof and in communication with the portion of the wick extending outside of the container.

5. (Original) An evaporative device according to claim 4, wherein the capillary plate is nonporous.

6. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device according to claim 4, wherein the capillary plate is substantially wing shaped.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device according to claim 4, wherein portions of the capillary channels are in communication with a portion of the wick extending outside the container.

9. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device according to claim 8, wherein the capillary channels are substantially V-shaped in cross section.

10. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device according to claim 4, wherein the capillary plate is detachably secured to one or both of the wick and the container.

11. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device according to claim 4, wherein the surface is one of a top and a bottom of the capillary plate.

12. (Currently Amended) An evaporative device, comprising:
a container for holding a liquid, the container having an opening;

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a porous wick extending through the opening such that a portion of the wick contacts the liquid held within the container and a portion of the wick extends outside of the container such that the wick transfers the liquid from the container;

a cover that encases a portion of the portion of the wick extending outside of the container; and

a capillary plate having a nonporous surface in communication with a portion of the wick, wherein the nonporous surface has one or more capillary pathways along which liquid, transferred by the wick from the container, is drawn by capillary action for dispersion to the ambient environment, wherein the capillary pathways are substantially continuous along lengths thereof.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An evaporative device according to claim 4 [[13]], wherein the plural capillary plates are movable such that the capillary channels of each are removable from communication with the portion of the wick extending outside of the container.

15. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device, comprising:

a container for holding a liquid, the container having an opening;

a porous wick extending through the opening such that a portion of the wick contacts the liquid held within the container and a portion of the wick extends outside of the container such that the wick transfers the liquid from the container;

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a capillary plate having a surface in communication with a portion of the wick, wherein the surface has one or more capillary pathways along which liquid, transferred by the wick from the container, is drawn by capillary action for dispersion to the ambient environment, wherein the capillary pathways are substantially continuous along lengths thereof, wherein there are plural capillary plates, each having one or more capillary pathways, and the capillary pathways are in communication with the portion of the wick extending outside of the container, wherein the plural capillary plates are movable such that the capillary pathways of each are removable from communication with the portion of the wick extending outside of the container, and wherein the plural capillary plates are actuatable in a direction away from the wick to separate the capillary pathways thereof from communication with the portion of the wick exposed to the ambient air.

16. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device according to claim 4, wherein the capillary channels are exposed on the surface of the capillary plate.

17. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device according to claim 4, wherein the capillary plate is composed of polyethylene.

18. (Previously Presented) An evaporative system, comprising:
an evaporative device according to claim 4; and
a housing for containing at least a portion of the evaporative device.

19. (Previously Presented) An evaporative system according to claim 18, wherein the evaporative device is detachably attached to the housing.

20. (Previously Presented) An evaporative system according to claim 18, wherein the capillary plate is fixed to the housing, and the container and the wick are detachably attachable to the housing and the capillary plate.

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21. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device according to claim 1, wherein the capillary member is a capillary insert with at least one nonporous capillary channel formed thereon, wherein a portion of the at least one nonporous capillary channel is in communication with a portion of the wick such that the nonporous capillary channel transfers liquid from the wick for dispersion to the ambient environment.

22. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device, comprising:
a container for holding a liquid, the container having an opening;
a porous wick extending through the opening such that a portion of the wick contacts the liquid held within the container and a portion of the wick is exposed to the ambient environment, where the wick transfers the liquid from the container; and
a nonporous capillary member having a surface in communication with a portion of the wick, wherein one or more capillary pathways are disposed along the surface of the capillary member along which liquid, transferred by the wick from the container, is drawn by capillary action for dispersion to the ambient air, wherein the capillary member is a capillary insert with at least one capillary channel formed thereon, wherein a portion of the at least one capillary channel is in communication with a portion of the wick such that the capillary channel transfers liquid from the wick for dispersion to the ambient environment; wherein the wick includes an aperture formed in a portion of the wick in an axial direction; and
wherein the capillary insert is disposed within the aperture such that the at least one capillary channel is in contact with an inner surface of the wick to transfer liquid from the wick to the capillary channel for dispersion to the ambient environment.

23. (Previously Presented) An evaporative device, comprising:
a container for holding a liquid, the container having an opening;
a porous wick extending through the opening such that a portion of the wick contacts the liquid held within the container and a portion of the wick is exposed to the ambient environment, where the wick transfers the liquid from the container; and

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a nonporous capillary member having a surface in communication with a portion of the wick, wherein one or more capillary pathways are disposed along the surface of the capillary member along which liquid, transferred by the wick from the container, is drawn by capillary action for dispersion to the ambient air, wherein the capillary member is a capillary insert with at least one capillary channel formed thereon, wherein a portion of the at least one capillary channel is in communication with a portion of the wick such that the capillary channel transfers liquid from the wick for dispersion to the ambient environment, wherein the wick includes an aperture formed in a portion of the wick in an axial direction, wherein the capillary insert is disposed within the aperture such that the at least one capillary channel is in contact with an inner surface of the wick to transfer liquid from the wick to the capillary channel for dispersion to the ambient environment, and wherein the capillary insert is slidable within the wick.